Drinking Water in violation of the said mandatory provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules.

Import of Sugar

†1226. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of sugar decided to be imported by Government;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the countries alongwith the details of the prices this import will be made;

(d) whether it is a fact that the imported sugar will be more costly than the sugar being sold in the country at present; and

(e) if so, the prices at which Government will make sugar available in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Central Government does not undertake import of sugar.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) The Government, *vide* Notification dated 23.06.2006 has decided to allow import of white sugar at zero percent customs duty without any quantitative restriction up to 30.9.2006. At present, the landed cost of imported sugar is higher than the domestic prices. The provision made for imports is only an enabling provision to facilitate imports of sugar if the domestic prices increase relative to international price.

Purchase of wet rice from Andhra Pradesh

1227. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

been received with regard to purchase of wet rice from the farmers of the State;

(b) if so, the details of the request so made; and

(c) the reasons for delay in giving permission to purchase wet rice from the farmers of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Storage by FCI

1228. PROF P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Food Corporation of India is storing foodgrains in private godowns rather than use the PSU Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) godowns available all over the country;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains stored in private godowns and CWC godowns in the last financial year;

(c) the reasons for favouring private godowns in this regard; and

(d) the details of steps proposed so as to ensure higher utilization of CWC godowns wherever they are available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir As on 31st May, 2006, out of the total hired storage capacity held by the Food Corporation of India (FCI), the private godowns capacity is only to the extent of 8.7%. The details of the hired storage capacity by the FCI are as under:—